RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR Ph. D.

"A SURVEY OF USER AWARENESS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS IN UNIVERSITIES OF GUJARAT"

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SAURASHTRA UNIVERISTY,

RAJKOT.

YEAR- 2015 – 16

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1.PREAMBLE:-

In the 21st century impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be seen in every area of the society as enormous changes are taking place in the society due to its applications. Now the terms like information society or network society are being used instead of using the term society. Application of ICT reigns every sector, whether it is public administration, urban and rural development, transport sector, medical sector, environmental sector, agricultural sector, travel and tourism industry, e-commerce etc.

Application of ICT in libraries and information centers has a positive impact in changing the library environment. With the application of ICT different services have been introduced by the libraries. E-mail, online retrieval, networking, multimedia and internet are important technologies which are being used for faster access to information (Jadhav 2011, 87). Internet has played an important role in this regard. Internet particularly

'World Wide Web' (WWW) with support of powerful hardware, software and networking technology has made the delivery of information very easy. Many publishers are taking advantage of WWW as a global route through which they offer large number of their publications to the scholarly community at world level. Internet or web is providing much of free resources like e-books, e-journals, and open source software etc. These developments have posed new challenges before libraries to provide the greater information access and improved level of services by using suitable software applications as well as to keep pace with technological change and ever increasing budget pressure.

E-resources are "Material consisting of data and/ or computer program(s) encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer by the use of a peripheral device directly connected to the computer or remotely via a network such as the Internet (AACR2). The category includes software application, electronic text, bibliographic databases, etc" (Reitz 2005, 244).

E-journals have a special place among the e-resources as they are in great demand in technical as well as other university libraries.

E-journals are important form among e-resources as these are very much useful in scholarly communication. E-journals can be accessed easily by multiple users at their desktops simultaneously with the support of required technology. Various researchers are getting more and more benefits by accessing required information from e-journals. Thus, e-journals have

unsurprisingly proved a very beneficial and well liked tool for the scholarly community of every university for locating their desired information.

E-journals have been in existence for so many years. Initially, they were made available on CD-ROMs, but later a large number of academic institutions having good bandwidth started downloading articles of e-journals from Internet. E-journals especially those produced by the industrialised world, are available today only on the internet and are not bought like traditional journals. Publishers have set up bundles of journals for sale to try and generate as much revenue as possible.

There is no universally accepted definition of e-journal. Some people call it paperless journal, some virtual journal and others online journal, etc. It would be better to consider first the definition of a journal here before explaining any thing about e-journal. According to ALA Glossary, 1983 (quoted in Chakraborty and Chakraborty 2002 pg. 2) "a journal is a periodical especially one containing scholarly article and/or disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject field. If this task is done by electronic media then it may call e-journal. If the content of journal produced, stored and scanned in a database and then retrieved online then same is called online journal."

2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :-

Users of various Indian universities are accessing e-journals but when we compare it with other developed countries like U.S.A. it is quite low. George et al. (2006) investigated IIT Delhi (Baljinder Kaur and Verma, 2009) only 71.39 percent students and faculty were aware of e-journals. The awareness among agricultural scientists is still lower as in National Research Center for Citrus (NRCC), Nagpur (Banker and Gajbhiye (2011) only 60.71 percent students and researchers were aware of e-journals. A similar trend is visible in the use of e-journals as faculty and research scholars make more use of e-journals than the UG and PG students. At GGIP University, Delhi (Sharma 2009) 85 percent research scholars, 64 percent faculty, 60 percent PG and 24 percent UG students made use of e-journals. The scientists working in research institutions also make

extensive use of e-journals but a less number of UG students were aware to the availability of these resources. The consortia such as UGC INFONET, INDEST and CeRA have facilitated thousands of e-journals to every university. Some universities subscribe other journals also which are not covered by consortia. Despite increasing use of e-journals the users are facing a lot of problems in their use some of the problems are of local nature and can be addressed immediately while others have a wider dimension of technological limitations. As soon as the existing problems are addressed some new problems may also emerge. In the year 2005 at IIT Delhi (Ali, Naushad) 20 percent users were facing the problem of lack of familiarity with e-resources but at the same institute (Chaurasia and Chaurasia, 2012) after a long gap of seven years as much as 50 percent users were facing problem in using e-journals.

The above facts make it clear that although awareness of e-journals is increasing but not all students, researchers and faculty are aware of these resources. Similarly, there is no doubt that use of e-journals is increasing but there are a number of problems which restrict their use and therefore optimum use of e-journals is still not possible. In this light the present study is undertaken to know the awareness and the use of e-journals together with the problems faced by the users of universities libraries in Gujarat.

➢ RESEARCH TITLE :-

"A SURVEY OF USER AWARENESS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS IN UNIVERSITIES OF GUJARAT"

➢ TERMINOLOGY:-

In this study terminology of title defined below:

➢ ELECTRONIC JOURNALS:-

There is no universally accepted definition of e-journal. Some people call it paperless journal, some virtual journal and others online journal, etc. It would be better to consider first the

definition of a journal here before explaining any thing about e-journal. According to ALA Glossary, 1983 (quoted in Chakraborty and Chakraborty 2002 pg. 2) "a journal is a periodical especially one containing scholarly article and/or disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject field. If this task is done by electronic media then it may call e-journal. If the content of journal produced, stored and scanned in a database and then retrieved online then same is called online journal."

- "A digital version of a print journal, or a journal-like electronic publication with no print counterpart, made available via the Web, e-mail, or other means of Internet access."

(Reitz 2005, 243)

- "Electronic Journals are journals whose full text is available on the web, including both those that began in paper print form but later incorporated the electronic version and those which were in electronic format from the beginning."

(Jose & Pacios 2005, 189)

- **AWARENESS:-**

Awareness is the ability to perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects, thoughts, emotions, or sensory patterns.[1] In this level of consciousness, sense data can be confirmed by an observer without necessarily implying understanding. More broadly, it is the state or quality of being aware of something. In biological psychology, awareness is defined as a human's or an animal's perception and cognitive reaction to a condition or event.

- **USER:-**

A person who use of library.

- **SURVEY:-**

The Oxford English Dictionary defines survey as "The act of examining or inspecting in detail especially for some specific purpose".

- **UNIVERSITY :-**

An university library is a library that is attached to a higher education institution which serves two complementary purposes to support the university curriculum, and to support the research of the university faculty and students. It is unknown how many academic libraries there are internationally**.**

- **GUJARAT:-**

Gujarat is a state in the western part of known locally as Jewel of the Western part of India. It has an area of 196,204 km2 (75,755 sq mi) with a coastline of 1,600 km (990 mi), most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula, and a population in excess of 60 million. The state is bordered by Rajasthan to the north, Maharashtrato the south, Madhya Pradesh to the east, and the Arabian Sea as well as the Pakistani province of Sindh to the west. Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Gujarat is home to the Gujarati-speaking people of India.

The state encompasses major sites of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, such as Lothal and Dholavira. Lothal is believed to be one of the world's first seaports. Gujarat's coastal cities, chiefly Bharuch and Khambhat, served as ports and trading centres in the Maurya and Gupta empires, and during the succession of royal Saka dynasties from the Western Satraps era, whose geographic territories included Saurashtra and Malwa: modern Gujarat, South Sindh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh states.

Gujarat was known to the Ancient Greeks, the various Persian Empires, the Roman Republic, and was familiar in other Western centers of civilization through the end of the European Middle Ages. The oldest written record of Gujarat's 2,000 year maritime history is documented in a Greek book titled 'The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea: Travel and Trade in the Indian Ocean by a Merchant of the First Century'.

3. OBJECTIVES:-

The main objective of the study is to know the awareness and use of e-journals in universities libraries of Gujarat state. Within this broad objective, the study is specifically intended to :

1. To know the research scholars awareness of e-journals.
2. To know the use of e-journals by research scholars.

3. To find out the frequency of e-journals use by research scholars.

4. To know the purposes of using e-journals by the research scholars.

5. Identify the problems faced by research scholars while accessing e-journals.

6. Ascertain the level of satisfaction of research scholars with e-journals.

7. Suggestive measures for increasing the use of e-journals.

4. HYPOTHESES:-

Keeping in view the above objectives, the study intended to test the following hypotheses:

- Some of the research scholars are unaware about this consortium.
- Proper infrastructure is not available for utilization of e-journals.
- Enough consortiums are not subscribed by the universities.
- Printed materials are mostly used rather than electronic resources.
- Lack of user orientation programme on how to access e-journals.

5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION:-

This study will cover all universities of Gujarat state.

This study will cover only for Ph.D. research scholar of Universities of Gujarat.

6. METHODOLOGY:-

This study falls under the category of descriptive research. Survey research method is widely used for researches in social sciences and humanities like Sociology, Economics, Education, Psychology etc. thus, survey method will adopt to carry out the work.

a. Population:

All universities of Gujarat state.

b. Sampling Method:

Proper sampling method will be adopted for this study.

c. Type of Data:

Study purposes to use Primary as well as secondary data.

d. Data Collection:

Questionnaire and Interview methods will be adapted for data collection. For data collection questionnaire will be distribute among the respondent. And if needed research will make a interview with the respondent and library staff.

e. Data Analysis:

Data compiled through questionnaire shall be arranged into order of tabulation in number and percentage and tabulation analysis followed by graphical presentation shall be the part of research finding. Besides this statistical tabulation detailed shall be noted separately in sequence theme based on the interview, remark and other observation.

7. CHAPTER PLAN :-

Chapter.1	INTRODUCTION
Chapter.2	REVIEW OF LITERATURE.
Chapter. 3	STATUS OF E-JOURNALS IN INDIA
Chapter. 4	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Chapter. 5	DATA ANALYSIS
Chapter. 6	FINDINGS AND SUGGESSTIONS
Chapter. 7	CONCLUSIONS

8. CONCLUSION :-

Electronic information resources have become the vital part of human life in 21st century. It has rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. It is clear from the study that how e-resources are useful to preparation of classroom teaching and research work. This study

helps the librarians in planning and developing e-resources in providing modern services to their university library users.

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